

From: Marlin Ritchie
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/31/01 7:01pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

DOJ;

I think Microsoft has been punished enough with the settlement that they have offered to agree to. I think that this trial has been driven by disgruntled competitors and the by the states where they are located. I further think that AOL-Time Warner and Comcast are just as guilty in not sharing their cable control thus preventing competition in the cable communication field.

Settle for what Microsoft has offered to do in response to the law suit and give them the room to continue to innovate in the area of software development in a way that will not stifle the development of software that the consumers need in a reasonable time frame. Do not load them down with legal bureaucratic oversight that is not required for their competitors and that adds cost to the consumer.

A concerned US citizen,

Marlin Ritchie